

Voluntary Statement of Mr. John W. Manz

The Boy Scouts of America, founded in 1910 and chartered by the United States Congress, have, for 99 years, utilized the outdoors as a mainstay of the program that has produced citizens and leaders who have served our country in public service and private enterprise with dignity, caring, loyalty, honor, and courage.

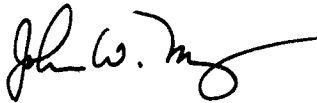
Each year thousands of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers provide tens of thousands of hours in voluntary community service here in Montana – many of those hours of service occur on public lands and properties and benefit those public facilities. The denial of access to public lands and facilities to Scout groups would in itself be discriminatory – it also clearly would not be in the public interest.

Section 7, MCA Section 49-2-308 could require public school principals to deny permission for Boy Scouts of America recruiting flyers and posters to be distributed or posted in schools. Many families learn about and join local Scout units because of the flyers they receive at their schools.

Section 14, MCA 49-3-205 could cause Scouting groups to be denied permission to use properties and facilities such as state parks and campgrounds, public schools, and other public properties for meetings, outdoor activities, service projects approved by appropriate authorities and donated by the Scouts, ad infinitum. Public properties and facilities play an enormous role in the Scouting program here in Montana.

I urge a NO vote on HB-252.

Testimony submitted on 16 February 2009:



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